

(Ms. KOSMAS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

KEEP AMERICA COMPETITIVE IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KILROY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act, legislation that will create jobs, strengthen our commitment to innovative research, and invest in education to keep our country competitive in the global economy.

Over the last century, America has been the leader in technological and scientific innovation. However, other nations are making investments in their own research capabilities, and we must rise to meet the challenge and insure that we remain the world's leader in innovation and learning while revitalizing our economy and creating jobs in our community.

I am part of the Congressional Competitiveness Task Force, and I also hold hearings on this issue in my own community and recently had the opportunity to meet with executives from the Silicon Valley. They tell me that innovation and research and development is necessary to get America moving again and our economy and keep America the leader in technological and scientific innovation.

The America COMPETES Act will create jobs by strengthening our manufacturing sector. It guarantees loans to small- and medium-sized manufacturers that create innovative products, supports research for transformative advances in manufacturing, and supports the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program so it can continue to meet the needs and challenges of manufacturers today.

The America COMPETES Act also makes investments in clean energy technologies that will help create jobs and secure our long-term economic growth. As China, Brazil, and other countries make huge investments in this growing industry, we must ensure that our country does not lose its competitive edge and fall behind in its technological capabilities.

The America COMPETES Act reauthorizes the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Energy to support high-risk, high-reward energy technology research and establishes Energy Innovation Hubs to support collaborative research and development of advanced energy technology.

Building a workforce that would be competitive in the world global marketplace also requires investments in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education at all levels of our education system.

The America COMPETES Act updates the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program to help train secondary

teachers to teach STEM in high-needs schools, provides grants to encourage students to major in science, technology, engineering, and math fields, and establishes fellowships for graduates in these fields to lead the way in education research in these areas.

The America COMPETES Act will strengthen diversity for science, technology, engineering, and math students, increasing the participation of women and minorities in the classroom and the workforce. And it increases funding for research reauthorized by the Department of Energy's Office of Science, the largest supporter of physical science research in our country, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Technology, with the intent of doubling funding they receive over the next 10 years.

□ 2015

The research they support will create the innovative technologies of the future and drive students to become the scientists and engineers our country needs.

Chad Bouton, recently named Inventor of the Year by Battelle in my district, is a shining example of this. His work on processing algorithms makes a product called Cyberkinetic Braingate possible, a medical device that allows people to control computers by their thoughts. This has incredible implications for paraplegics who are confined to their wheelchairs, for veterans in need of realistic, functional prosthetics. This is the kind of research we need that not only leads to incredible innovations, but will inspire students with the possibilities of what they can achieve as scientists and researchers themselves.

We have a key opportunity as the economic recovery takes hold to make essential investments that will keep our Nation competitive and secure its long-term economic growth. The America COMPETES Act is supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Ohio Business Roundtable, Ohio State University, and hundreds of businesses, professional societies, and institutions of higher learning across the country.

I am proud to cosponsor this bipartisan legislation, and I urge my colleagues, tomorrow when it comes for a vote, to support the America COMPETES Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

JOBS AND OUR ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for recognizing me and allowing us again on a Wednesday evening to explore the interesting question that has certainly been much in the minds of Americans over the last couple of years; that is, the situation of jobs and our economy. Particularly, what is the connection between jobs and the economy, and what is going on? Do we have reason for hope? Are things turning around or not? And we continue as Americans to ask, where are the jobs? Because there are many, many people who are unemployed, and many people who are unemployed for more than a year are no longer counted in our statistics, which suggests that the unemployment rate is somewhere in that 9 percent or 10 percent area. So the real unemployment rate is probably higher. That is a reason for people to be concerned, if you have a job.

If you don't have a job, it is not a matter of concern; it is a matter of a serious crisis. And there are many people who are struggling with that, and we are going to take a look at that this evening and also take a look at what are the various factors that influence the fact that we don't have jobs, whether we are doing the right or